

INI-0031-D

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend Paragraph [0052] as follows:

[0052] Another exemplary embodiment of the upper deck is shown generally at 112 in FIGURE 6. Upper deck 112 includes a skeletal sub-structure defined by ribs 113 and cross beams 115 arranged and supported by each other, as is shown. Ribs 113 are spaced parallel to each other and are traversed by cross beams 115 in a grid pattern arrangement. An integument 117 comprising a thin, puncture resistant film is disposed over at least one surface of the skeletal sub-structure of upper deck 112 and is preferably fused to ribs 113 and cross beams 115 to provide a surface upon which objects can be loaded. Integument 117 is configured and dimensioned to prevent or at least minimize the probability of penetration of the surfaces of upper deck 112 by sharp objects. Integument 117 may include a non-skid surface 17 (~~not shown~~) embossed or calendared directly thereon, or it may include a non-skid film or layer attached thereto. The total non-skid surface coverage of upper deck 112 can be up to and in excess of about 30% of strategically located non-skid material, with about 85% to about 100% coverage preferred, and 100% surface coverage of upper deck 112 being especially preferred. In other embodiments, upper deck 112 may be grated or perforated with holes to enable fluid communication to be maintained between the opposing surfaces thereof, thereby enhancing air circulation proximate objects loaded onto the pallet as well as the drainage of liquids.